

PRESIDENT: All right, we'll move on to LB 48.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 48 was a bill introduced by Senator Dierks and Senators Chambers, Nelson, Schellpeper, Hefner, Lamb, Crosby and Hartnett. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, referred to the Health Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. On January 31, yesterday, the Legislature adopted committee amendments as offered by the Health Committee. I have a series of amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Dierks, if it would be okay, we'll go back to your bill. You can recap it as it stands now, and I want to say to you that in a few minutes, and I don't know how few minutes, we're going to have some special guests coming from Russia and we may break into the middle of your bill, so if you would understand that and if you would allow us to do that, we'll do that because of these special guests and I don't know what their timetable is, so don't be surprised. Is that agreeable with you? And we'll go back to your bill and you can recap it at this moment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, Mr. President, that's very agreeable with me.

PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR DIERKS: You want a recap?

PRESIDENT: If you would like to at this time so that we can pick up, some perhaps were not here when we finished yesterday with your bill.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Mr. President, members of the body, LB 48, as you know, is the smokeless tobacco bill. It was introduced to this body, I think this is the fourth time or maybe fifth. This is the first time it has actually made it to the floor. It is a total ban of the distribution of smokeless tobacco products to the people of this state. It does not interfere with the free trade. It does not stop the companies from selling the product. It just simply says you cannot give it away in this state of ours. We are trying with this bill to protect the health primarily of the youth. I understand there are several amendments up there. I understand there is even a